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CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the year -

1937.





CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health. M. GEPP, D.P.H. (S.W. Salop Combined Districts).

Sanitary Inspector. Edwin J. Marsh. Also holds office as Surveyor and Waterworks Manager to the Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres). 6,085.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1937. 2,222.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books. 673.

Rateable Value. £19,626. Sum represented by a penny rate. £78/3.

Social Conditions. Since the formation of the Urban District in 1899, the character of the area has changed from that of a small market town to that of a modern residential district, and a Health and Holiday resort of high class, for which its situation and natural beauty of surroundings well fit it. The general social conditions are good. The development of the District has at no time proceeded so rapidly as to outrun the powers of the Council to provide the necessary health and other public services. There are no manufacturing industries in the district.

Under the Salop Review Order the District in 1934 was increased in area; from 978 to 6085 acres. Most of the added area is uncultivated and uninhabited moorland, and the change has the great advantage of bringing the gathering ground of the upland water supply within the Council's area, as also the Sewage Disposal works.

The number of houses was increased by some 192, from 456 to 648, and the population by some 565 persons, due mainly to the inclusion of the villages of All Stretton and Little Stretton, the outlying parts of the added area being very sparsely populated.

The Carding Mill Valley, the chief place of resort for day visitors, is also now brought within the Council's area.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate 32	22	10	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 14.4
	{ Illegitimate -	-	-	
Stillbirths	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 30.
Deaths	38	13	25	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 17.1
Deaths from puerperal causes:				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal sepsis		nil		-
No. 30. Other puerperal causes		nil		-
Total		-	-	



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Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-		<u>Number.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	2	62
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		1	31
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		1	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4.		
" " Measles (all ages)	nil.		
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.		
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.		

Church Stretton U.D. England & Wales.

Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.4	14.9
Death rate " " " { Crude	17.1	
{ Corrected	12.5	12.4
Infant death rate per 1,000 born	62.	58.
Average of 10 years 1921-30 in the old Urban District	13.7	

Of the total 32 births none was illegitimate.

		<u>Crude.</u>	<u>Corrected.</u>
Death rate in the District per 1,000 population	{ 1937	17.1	12.5
	{ 1936	17.0	12.4
	{ 1935	14.3	10.4
	{ 1934	13.7	10.0
Average of 10 years 1921-30, old Urban District		12.7	-

The 'corrected' rate is one which allows for the age and sex distribution in a District as compared with that of the Country as a whole. The District's rate for the year, when so corrected, was very close to that of the Country generally. There was no death from any of the common infectious diseases, nor from tuberculosis. Influenza caused 6 deaths, cancer 4, heart disease 5, cerebral haemorrhage 5, bronchitis 1, pneumonia 2. One death was due to suicide and 3 to 'other violence.'

Infant death rate in the District per 1,000 born	{ 1937	62.
	{ 1936	31.
	{ 1935	48.
	{ 1934	nil.
Average of 10 years 1921-30, old Urban District		37.

The District has a low and consistently favourable infant death rate. It must be noted that the rate for the past year is based upon two infant deaths, of which one was that of a newly born child whose body was found on the railway within the District's area. In the absence of identification having been established, the death was allocated to the District in which the body was found. This has the effect of doubling the District's proper rate. The other death was due to congenital debility in an infant who survived only three days.

The District's low average rate has been a testimony to the very good work done by the local Child Welfare Centre and to the Health Visiting System of the County Council.

The attendances in the past year at the Child Welfare Centre, which is organised by a local Voluntary Association, with assistance from the County Council and the Ministry of Health, were as follows:-

	New Cases.	Total Cases.	Total Attendances.
Under 1 year	.. 30	30	246
1 to 5 years	.. 10	60	534
Expectant mothers..	3	8	16

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

As regards the following matters, no change has occurred during the year in the arrangements detailed in my Annual Reports for 1930 and 1933.

Nursing in the home, Laboratory facilities, Legislation in force, Hospitals, Ambulance facilities, Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Isolation Hospital. In the absence of any material progress in the Scheme for provision of a County Hospital, the Council continues its arrangement for admission of urgent cases of infectious disease to the Shrewsbury & Atcham Joint Isolation Hospital, by payment..

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The Surveyor reports, as to the Council's public supply:-

"No shortage of water was experienced during the year.

"The water level at New Pool Hollow Reservoir was below overflow "cill from 18th June until 29th October, attaining a maximum of "7' 2" below on 17th September.

"During the period above mentioned, 18th June to 29th "October, the supply at Town Brook Hollow Reservoir was made use "of up to the capacity of the small gravity sand filter existing "in connection with this supply."

Rainfall during the year, as recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works:-

Total fall 37.77 inches.

Number of days with .01 inch, or more, 203

" " " ".04 " " " 138

Greatest fall in 24 hours, Dec. 2nd., 2.18 inches.

Driest month, June, with total of 0.82 inch.

Wettest month, December with total of 6.35 inches.

The rainfall for the year was above the average.

The Surveyor also reports:-

"Renewal of water mains to the extent of 730 yards was "carried out in Olive Avenue, Church Stretton Ward. Asbestos-cement pressure pipes of 4 inch interhal diameter were used to replace 3 inch cast iron pipes which had become badly incrustated internally. Scraping, and re-coating with emulsified bitumen, of the old cast iron pipes had previously been tried out, but the result was not satisfactory inasmuch as constant complaints of rust-coloured water were received from consumers following completion of the work.

"Seven new houses were connected to the public supply "during the year, and the supplies to three old houses were "improved by abolishing outside stand-pipes and carrying the "supply into the houses."

The quality of the water was good. Occasional slight turbidity is experienced after influx of heavy rains to the impounding reservoir.

Analysis. A sample was submitted for full bacteriological analysis in August. Professor Shrewsbury, Director of the Birmingham University Public Health Laboratory, reported that the examination yielded no evidence of the presence of intestinal bacilli, or of sewage contamination.

In the entire absence of inhabited houses, and of cultivated ground, upon the collecting area, I do not consider frequent analysis to be necessary, but I recommend that bacteriological analysis be made at intervals of six months, as a routine measure, in the case of the main reservoir. As regards the small low level reservoir in Town Brook Hollow, I advise that analysis be made at monthly intervals when this supply is put in use, in order to keep observation upon the efficient working of the sand filters.

All Stretton. Following upon my remarks in the last Annual Report, the Council submitted a sample of the water for bacteriological analysis at the end of September. The report showed a total count of bacteria of 165 per c.c., and Coli-acrogenes present in 1 c.c. The result was not considered to be favourable in a surface water of this kind, and not to indicate present or recent pollution with human sewage, or present pollution with manurial organisms. This sample was taken after a long spell of dry weather.

A further sample was analysed early in the present year, at a time of more normal flow, and the results and the bacteriologist's opinion were similar to those in the previous case. He advised further tests of purity during the hot weather.

I reported to the Sanitary Committee as follows:-

"All Stretton Water Supply."

"I have seen Professor Shrewsbury's report of the 17th Feb. upon the bacteriological examination of a sample of the water.

"It is satisfactory to have his opinion that he found the water to be safe for human consumption in its present state.

"At the same time I have to state that, in my opinion, the conditions of collection and storage of this supply, are not such as to be free from risk of manurial contamination at all times, and there appear to be well founded complaints of sediment passing into the mains and house services at times.

"There are two means by which, in my opinion, this supply could be safeguarded and improved, viz:-

"(1) by removal of the intake to a point above a farmed and occupied land, - a matter of some half a mile; or -

"(2) by installation of a gravity sand filtration plant, (such as that in the Council's Town Brook Hollow supply) immediately below the existing reservoir.

"In the mean time I advise that a quarterly bacteriological analysis of the water be arranged."

A copy of the analysis and of my report was forwarded to the All Stretton Water Company, and it is understood that they have the recommendation as to filtration under consideration.

Drainage and Sewerage. No new work in sewerage was found necessary. As to drainage the Surveyor reports:-

"Of the seven new houses erected during the year, five were connected to the public sewers and two were drained to cess-pits.

"Two old houses were connected to the public sewers, one of which had formerly drained to a cess-pit and the other one direct to a stream.

"The drainage systems in connection with nine old houses were improved during the year."

Stream Pollution. As the result of inspection I am in accordance with the following statement made by the Surveyor:-

"Some pollution of the brook in Carding Mill Valley, by the overflow from a cess-pit receiving the drainage of a cafe is noticeable during the tourist season when the brook is low.

"Pollution of the All Stretton brook also occurs by reason of the fact that a few houses in the village, and also a private institution, drain into it.

"Steps are being taken by the Council to carry out a special inspection of all dwellings in the All Stretton Ward, in which Ward the premises referred to are situated, with the object of obtaining particulars of the present drainage arrangements generally. When this inspection has been completed and the report thereon made available, it is anticipated that consideration will be given to the question of providing a sewage disposal system for this portion of the district."

The Surveyor also reports:-

"Scavenging. Disposal of house refuse is by tipping on the lower lying portion of a field adjoining the sewage disposal works and owned by the Council.

"The tip is well removed from dwelling houses and workplaces, and is fairly well screened from observation by those using the roads and railway in the neighbourhood.

"A rough form of incinerator is used for destroying waste paper and the like, and the remainder of the refuse is dealt with on controlled tipping lines.

"Weekly collections are made, and direct labour is employed both on the work of collection and on the work necessary at the tip.

"Steps are taken during "Rat Week" and at other times during the year, to keep down the number of rats in or about the tip.

"Closet Accommodation. Improvement of closet accommodation was effected in six cases during the year, one old privy being converted to a water closet and five old privies being converted to earth closets in unsewered areas."

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the year.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	..	..	74
Number of legal notices sent	..	..	1
Number of informal notices sent	..	..	17
Number of such notices complied with	..	..	8
Number of letters written	..	..	38

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be cleansed after Infectious Disease	..	-
{b} Deficient or objectionable water supply	..	3
{c} New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	..	9
{d} New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	..	6
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	..	9
{f} Offensive accumulations of all kinds	..	-
{g} Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	..	-
(h) Houses overcrowded	..	-

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	..	1
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	..	2
Privies converted to water closets	..	1
Privies converted to earth closets	..	5
Plans for new houses passed	..	5
Houses connected to public water supply	..	7
Private wells reconstructed or improved	..	-
Houses connected to public sewerage	..	7

Lengths of new sewers laid ..
Lengths of new water mains laid (renewal of old mains) 730 yds.

Proceedings before Magistrates: Nil.

E. J. MARSH.

Sanitary Inspector.

Shops. No action under the provisions of the Shop Hours Act 1934 relating to ventilation, temperature, or sanitary conveniences, was found necessary.

Smoke Abatement. No cases of undue emission of smoke were observed, and no complaints were received.

Swimming Pool. There is an open air swimming pool in Carding Hill Valley. Access is free of charge and the water, supplied from the stream, has constant flow through the pool. The Council undertakes the emptying and cleansing of the pool annually.

Eradication of bed bugs. The Sanitary Inspector reports:-

- "(1) The number of (a) Council houses (i) found to be infested: nil
(ii) disinfested:
(b) other houses (i) found to be infested: nil
(ii) disinfested:
(2) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs;
Infestation by bed bugs is unknown within the district.
(3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of
tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council
houses; Nil."

Schools. The schools within the district are structurally sound and the general sanitary arrangements are good. They are all supplied with water from the Council's mains.

Steps are being taken by the responsible authority to secure a site for, and to proceed with the erection of, a Church senior school.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 74
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 312
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 190
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 17
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. 9

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-		
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..		1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
(a) By owners		1
(b) By Local authority in default of owners ..		-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..		-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
(a) By owners		-
(b) By local authority in default of owners..		-
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..		-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		-
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..		-
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..		-

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..	6
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	6
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	35
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..	-
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	3
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	16½
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	-

The Council considers that the six remaining cases of overcrowding may be remedied without necessity arising for new building.

Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1932.

(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the service of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders;

(a) ..	1
(b) ..	-

(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930; .. -

Seven houses were built by private enterprise during the year. Of these, six were built by owner occupiers; and these, with eight similarly built in the two preceding years, make a total of fourteen houses of good artisan class type; and a useful contribution to housing of this class.

The Council has no present building programme. It has built 50 houses and taken over four others which had been built by the former Rural District Council. The total of 54 houses owned by the Council amounts to some 8.2 per cent of the inhabited houses in the District.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926. So far no advantage has been taken of this Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops for the year.

	Wholesalers	2
Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	Retailers	19
	Total	21
Number of premises - cowsheds ..	..	13
dairies ..	..	-
milkshops ..	..	1
Total number of premises registered ..	..	14
Number of inspections ..	..	30
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:		
(a) floor or cubic space ..	..	-
(b) ventilation ..	..	-
(c) lighting ..	..	-
(d) structure of floor ..	..	-
(e) drainage ..	..	-
(f) cleanliness ..	..	2
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds ..	..	-
(3) in sanitary condition of drains ..	..	-
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops ..	..	-
(5) in water supply ..	..	-
Number of notices - verbal and written ..	..	2
Number of these notices complied with ..	..	2
Number of defects found and not yet remedied ..	..	-
Number of premises reconstructed or radically improved during the year ..	..	-
Number of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milk sellers in District at end of year ..	1	
" " " Tuberculin Tested ..	" "	-
" " " Pasteurised ..	" "	-
" " " Accredited ..	" "	-

E. J. MARSH.
Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspection. The Inspector reports:-

"Carcasses Inspected and Condemned:

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
"Number killed (no record)	-	-	-	-	-
"Number inspected ..	10	2	-	24	7
"All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
"Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
"Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	-	-	-	-	-
"Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
"Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
"Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	-	-	-	-	-

"Slaughterhouses. There are two registered slaughter houses "within the district. Periodical inspection has shown that due "attention is being paid to general sanitary requirements.

"Meat and Other Foods. Arising out of inspection of meat "and other foods, no carcasses or parts of slaughtered animals, nor "any other foods intended for human consumption, were found to be "unfit.

"There are seven retail meat shops within the district. "All are provided with closed glass fronts, and five are equipped "with electrically operated refrigerators.

"Bakehouses. There are four bakehouses in use as such "within the district. They have been periodically inspected during "the year and have been found to be generally well kept."

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the District Council, free of cost to cases of the poorer class, through a local chemist who supplies medical men upon request. Antitoxin is in general use in all but very slight cases. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Memorandum of July, 1922, the contracting chemist has been instructed to hold and supply antitoxin in phials containing 8,000 units for treatment and 500 units for prophylactic purposes.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector by means of formalin spray or vapor lamps.

Diphtheria Immunisation. No request for free treatment under the scheme adopted in 1936 was received.

No case of diphtheria came to light. One case of Scarlet fever was notified, in an adult. The source was obscure. Due precautions were taken and there was no spread of infection.

Measles was epidemic early in the year. The type was comparatively mild and no death was recorded.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal fever	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	2

Ophthal-mia Neon-storm	Cases		Vision un-im-paired	Vision im-paired	Total Blind-ness	Deaths			
	Treated								
	Notified	At home	In hospital						
	1	-	1	1	-	-			

Tuberculosis.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action was taken or found necessary, as to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, Section 62. No action was necessary for application for an order for compulsory removal to hospital.

M. GEPP.
Medical Officer of Health.

Shrewsbury.
30th May, 1938.

